

MARTIN O'MALLEY
Mayor



OTIS ROLLEY III
Director

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DEPARTMENTS OF PLANNING, RECREATION AND PARKS AND TRANSPORTATION TO MAKE IMPROVEMENTS TO BILLIE HOLIDAY MONUMENT AND SURROUNDING GROUNDS

BALTIMORE, MD (April 6, 2006) - Baltimore Department of Planning Director Otis Rolley will join community leaders at a press conference on **Friday, April 7, 2006 at 3:00 p.m. at the intersection of Lafayette and Pennsylvania Avenues** to unveil new plans to make improvements to the Billie Holiday Monument in the Upton neighborhood as well as to the surrounding area.

The improved monument and grounds will pay homage and preserve Ms. Holiday's memory for generations to come. The announcement comes on the birthday of "Lady Day" who touched the hearts of many with her soulful voice and moving lyrics. Holiday, born April 7, 1915, grew up in the Fells Point neighborhood of Baltimore. Ms. Holiday sang the sorrows and struggles of African Americans through songs such as "Strange Fruit" and "God Bless the Child" more than a decade before Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat to a white man on a Montgomery, Alabama bus, sparking the civil rights movement.

The improvements to the monument and the surrounding area are being spearheaded by Baltimore Departments of Planning, Recreation and Parks and Transportation along with community representatives from the surrounding neighborhoods.